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THE HISPANIC ACTIVITIES OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
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THE HISPANIC
OF THE LIBRARY
WITH AN ADDRESS BY AR
WASHINGTON



The Hispanic Room.

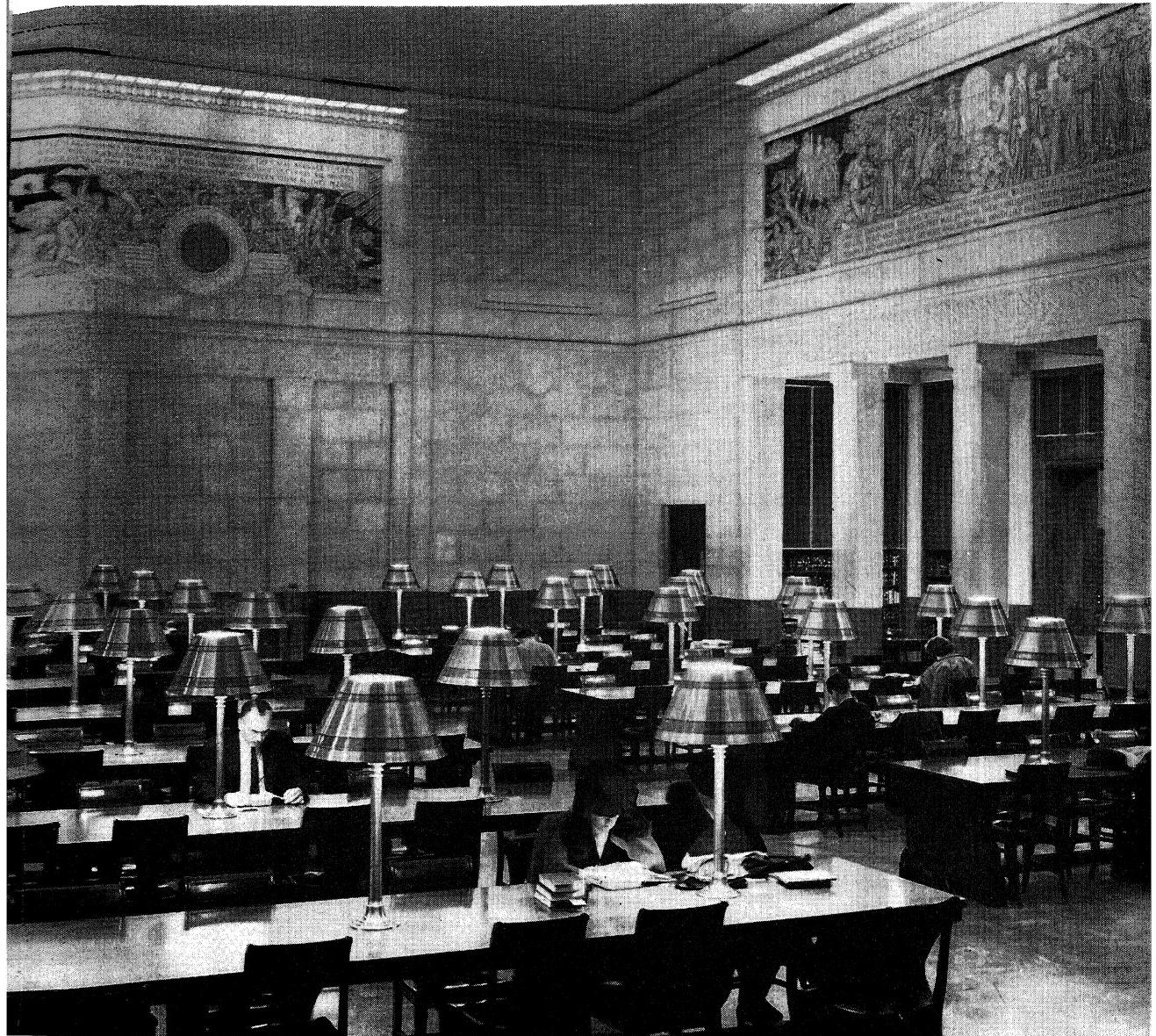
The Library of Congress

The formal opening of the Hispanic Foundation on October 12, 1939, provided the Library of Congress with a focus for its many Hispanic activities, some of which began many years ago. The Hispanic Foundation and the other Hispanic activities of the Library of Congress have developed as an integral part of the general activities of the Library, and therefore a brief description of the history, collections and services of the Library of Congress itself is pertinent.

The Library of Congress is the national library of the United States. Founded in 1800, it was at first located in the Capitol, where it received in 1815 its first important collection, the private library of Thomas Jefferson, two-thirds of which was burned in 1851. In 1897 the Library was transferred to the present building, in a special gallery of which the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Constitution were placed on permanent exhibition 27 years later (1924). On April 5, 1939, a new Annex was opened, giving the Library twice as much book space as any other library in the United States.

The Library's collections in June 1945 included 7,877,002 printed books and pamphlets, 1,639,505 maps and views, 1,703,599 pieces and volumes of music, 575,083 prints, 7,900,000 bound volumes of newspapers and manuscripts. In addition, there are 314,412 photographs and 43,343 reels of microfilm. The Library possesses the largest collection of books on aeronautics in the world, the largest collection of Oriental books outside of China and Japan and probably the largest collection of Russian books outside of Russia. In the Division of Manuscripts are the papers of nearly all the Presidents and of many statesmen. In the Rare Book Collection are about 150,000 items—among them many first editions and rare bindings, some 25,000 early American pamphlets and over 1,500 bound volumes of American eighteenth-century newspapers. Of the 5,100 fifteenth-century books, 3,000—including the St. Blasius-St. Paul copy of the Gutenberg Bible—were purchased by a special act of Congress in 1930.

Not only has the Library of Congress collected and preserved a great mass of material encyclopedic in scope, but concurrently there has been a development and diversification of its services. The Library has become increasingly the Mecca of scholars and at the same time a "people's library of reference". The direct service to Congress also has been greatly intensified since the creation



The Thomas Jefferson Room, one of the two principal reading rooms in the Annex, dedicated to the founder of the Library of Congress.

of a Legislative Reference Service in 1915. The National community-at-large has benefited directly by the actual loan, through the Library's Inter-Library Loan Service, of books not in the collections of local libraries; by the Library's publication in book form of select topical lists, special catalogs and calendars and, in a few cases, the actual texts of historical manuscripts in the possession of the Library, and by information furnished by the Library's Reference Department through correspondence. In the field of library science, the Library of Congress has issued many technical publications, but perhaps its most important contributions in recent years have been the development of the Union Catalog and the supplying at cost of printed catalog cards—a byproduct of the Library's own cataloging and classifying operations—to other libraries, societies and individuals.

The Library also maintains a Photoduplication Service equipped with apparatus for making all types of reproductions of manuscripts, books, newspapers and other material; and it supplies these reproductions at cost on request.

One of the most interesting recent aspects of the Library's development has been the establishment of consultantships held by specialists in various fields. The consultants have served to guide the development of the Library within their own disciplines and to assist scholars in the pursuit of their researches.

This staff of scholars has been supplemented through the appointment of Fellows of the Library of Congress who hold one-year appointments for the purpose of assisting the Library in their special fields of knowledge. The fields represented currently are English and American poetry, history of science, philosophy, American history, Slavonic history, and French literature.

Another of the interesting new activities of the Library is the Recording Laboratory of the Music Division, established to make more available the important material on the shelves of the Music Division or in its Archive of American Folksong. The Recording Laboratory possesses apparatus for duplicating phonograph recordings of all types, for making master recordings and transcriptions of radio broadcasts and also for originating broadcasts from within the Library building. These new services were made possible by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation.

The Hispanic Foundation

The Hispanic Foundation was established in 1939 to provide a "center for the pursuit of studies in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American culture," as defined in a commemorative tablet prominently displayed in the Foundation's

reading room. This tablet adds that this center "has been established with the generous cooperation of the Hispanic Society of America in extension of its service to learning."

In 1927, Mr. Archer M. Huntington, the founder of the Hispanic Society of America, had already indicated his interest in cooperating with the Library of Congress in the promotion of Hispanic studies by establishing a generous fund for the purchase of new books in this field. According to the terms of his gift, purchases were to be limited to books published within the ten years preceding the date of acquisition. This clause aimed at insuring that living Hispanic authors are well represented in the Library's collections.

An anonymous friend generously provided funds for the suitable housing of the Hispanic Foundation within the Library of Congress and the distinguished architect, Paul Philippe Cret, was commissioned to create an appropriate setting.

The Hispanic Room

In the Hispanic Room the architect has achieved an atmosphere of cloistered quiet and serenity, providing an interior which faithfully reproduces in its details the style of the *Siglo de Oro*, the sixteenth and seventeenth century taste of Spain and Portugal. In this room special Hispanic exhibitions are held. From time to time rare maps, important documents and autographs, early printed books and pamphlets are arranged here in special displays to commemorate the anniversary of some event of historical or cultural importance. Among the exhibitions already displayed have been those in honor of the fourth centenary of the discovery of the Mississippi River, the four-hundredth anniversary of printing in the Americas, and the commemoration of Portuguese independence.

The walls of the vestibule of the Hispanic Room are decorated with murals by Cândido Portinari, the Brazilian painter, expressing in monumental form some aspects of the history which all the American Republics have in common—Discovery of the Land, Entrance into the Forest, Teaching of the Indians, Mining of Gold. As the Librarian of Congress said in a letter to His Excellency, President Getulio Vargas of Brazil, whose personal interest was largely responsible for making Portinari's trip to Washington possible, the Library "possesses in these murals, not merely beautiful paintings that illustrate the field of interest of the Hispanic Foundation, but also a highly original and important contribution to American art."

From the vestibule the visitor enters the Foundation's reading room, a gallery some 130 feet in length. A lofty frieze records the names of celebrated scholars and men of letters of the Hispanic world. Such great figures as Camões, Cervantes, Gonçalves Dias, Bello, Cuervo, Sarmiento, García Icazbalceta, Palma, Rodó, Medina, Montalvo, Hostos, Heredia and Darío are represented.

Immediately adjacent to the Hispanic Room are some 100,000 Hispanic volumes which can be consulted here in an atmosphere of beauty such as a monastic library originally might have presented. About the lower walls runs a dado of soft blue tiles from Puebla, in Mexico; curtains of golden brocade hang at the windows and about the alcoves and balconies, which are of fine wrought iron.

A marble tablet commemorating this splendid gift is affixed to the end wall between two doors of Spanish design which lead to the administrative offices of the Foundation. Above this tablet and filling the whole lunette of the end wall is a mural representing the arms of Columbus. It was painted on stainless steel in a new technique by Buell Mullen and was presented to the Library by the Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation; it was formally dedicated at a brief ceremony held in the Hispanic Room on May 28, 1940, at which the principal speaker was the Honorable Sumner Welles, at that time Under Secretary of State.

The alcoves which line one side of the Hispanic Room contain a reference collection and the Hispanic catalog. When completed, this catalog will greatly facilitate the public's use of Hispanic material in all divisions of the Library.

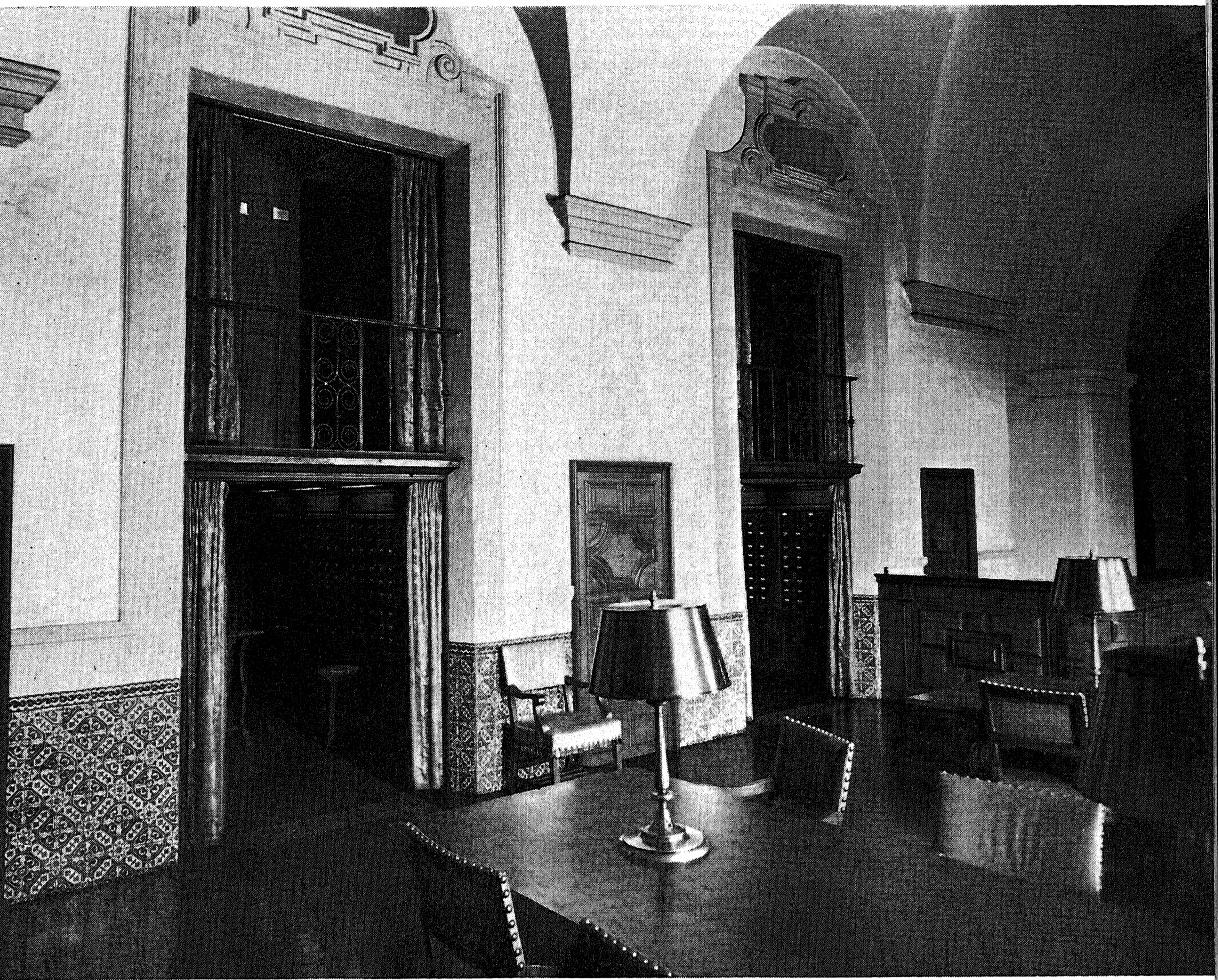
In the Annex, 172 individual air-conditioned studies are available for mature scholars pursuing special researches, and in the old building, 54. The Foundation already has been host to historians, bibliographers, poets, librarians and government officials from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, and other Hispanic nations, who have used these special facilities of the Library of Congress. Located in Washington, which has become an important center for the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking worlds, the Hispanic Foundation is in touch with leading personalities in the scholarly and political worlds of Latin America, Spain and Portugal, through personal contact when they visit the capital of the United States or when members of its staff visit the Hispanic countries, as well as through correspondence.

The Resources of the Collections

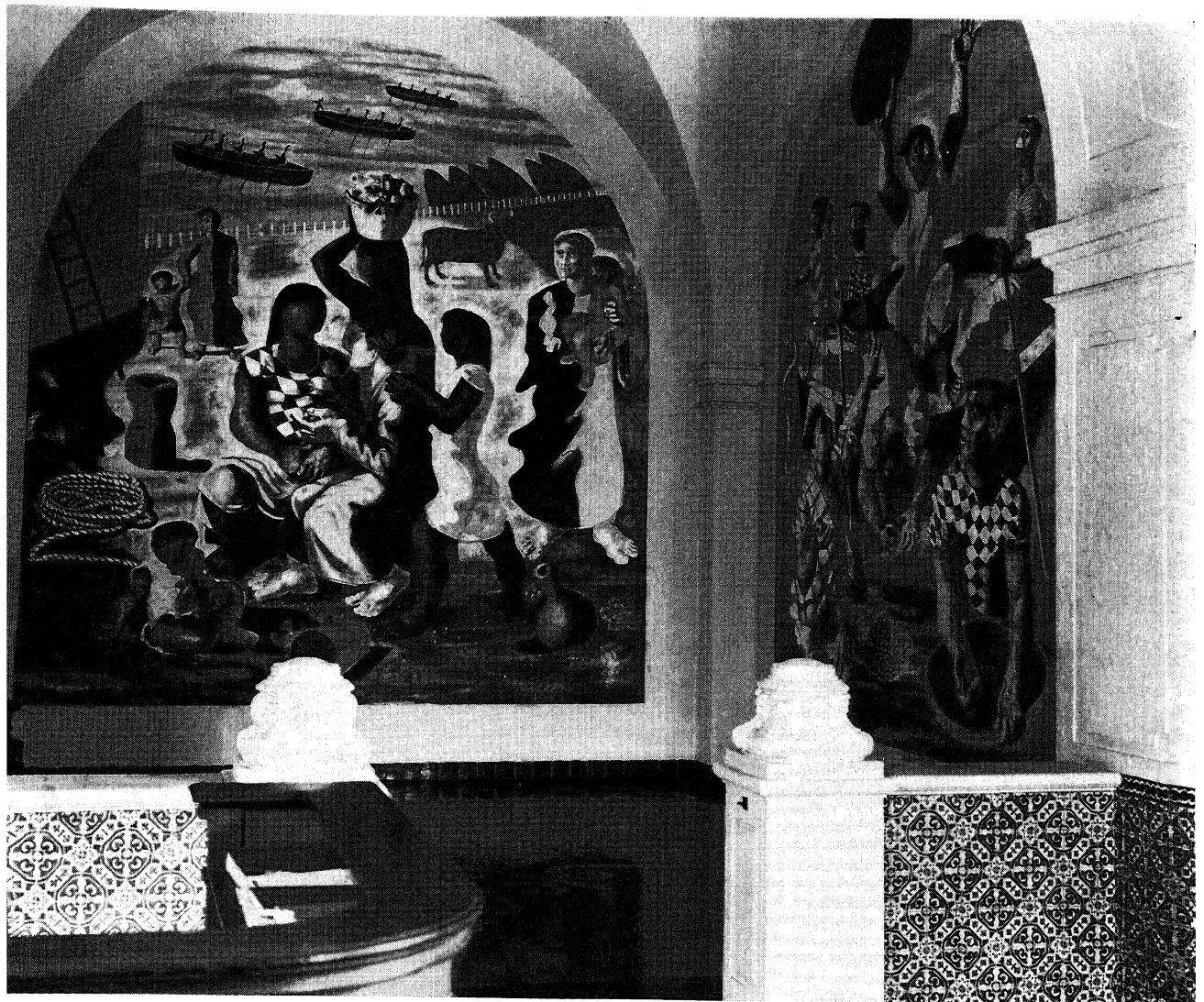
Printed Books

The Hispanic Foundation already possesses a good working collection for Hispanic studies in history, literature, languages and bibliography. This is supplemented by certain rarities within the field which are housed in various special divisions of the Library.

The Rare Book Room, for example, possesses many Hispanic items of real importance. There is a copy of one of the earliest books known to have been printed in Mexico City, a Christian Doctrine for the first bishop, Fray Juan de Zumárraga, printed in 1544 by Juan Pablos, and there are some fifteen other sixteenth-century Mexican items, including a rare book on navigation, the first of its kind in the New World, written by Diego García de Palacio and published by Pedro Ocharte in Mexico in 1587. Two of the earliest books printed in South America are kept here: a catechism in Spanish and in two Indian languages and a Spanish-Quichua vocabulary, published in Lima by Antonio Ricardo in 1585 and 1586 respectively. Among Spanish incunabula are a 1491 edition of the fundamental Spanish law code, the *Siete Partidas*, Fernan de Mexia's book of noble families (1492), and Lucena's treatise on fencing (ca. 1496). There is a good collection of seventeenth-century publications on the activities of the Dutch West Indies Company in the New World, including the well-known *Brasilsche Gelt Sack* of 1647. Here also is the extensive Henry Harrisse bequest containing the interleaved and profusely annotated copies of the writings of that eminent American bibliophile on the period of discovery. The John Boyd Thacher Collection contains signed letters of Ferdinand and Isabella, Charles V, the Empress Isabella, and other Spanish sovereigns. It also includes eight Spanish incunabula and an incunabulum from Portugal. Among the former are the second book printed in Spain, a Latin Sallust published at Valencia in 1475; a Spanish edition of Seneca's Proverbs, which came from the press of Antonio de Centenera at Zamora in 1482; a folio volume of the *Cura de la piedra . . . y cólica rrenal*, by Julián Gutiérrez, a rare work on the diseases of the bladder, printed by Peter Hagenback of Toledo in 1498; and *Los doze trabajos de Ercules* by Enrique de Villena, from the first press of Juan de Burgos, 1499. The Portuguese incunabulum is Zacuto's *Almanach perpetuum*, published by Abraham de Ortas, in Leria, in 1496.



These two alcoves in the Hispanic Room house the Hispanic Catalog. Over the balcony to the right is the name of Camões.



Two of the four Portinari murals in the Hispanic Room. White and blue tiles from Puebla, Mexico, in the foreground.

Special mention should be made of the Cervantes collection, notably increased a short time ago by a distinguished gift by Mr. Leonard Kebler of many early editions of *Don Quixote*, in Spanish and a score of foreign languages. Another recent unusual addition to these Hispanic holdings in the Rare Book Room is the collection of hand-printed books, newspapers, and broadsides made by the Republican army during the 1936–1939 civil war in Spain.

Manuscripts

The Division of Manuscripts also contains Hispanic treasures. Outstanding are two early sixteenth-century manuscripts—the Columbus Codex, a book of privileges granted to Columbus and written down at Seville, with an authentic contemporary transcript sent to Ferdinand and Isabella of the celebrated Bull *Dudum Quidem* of Alexander VI (Sept. 26, 1493), and the so-called Sneyd Codex, a part of the John Boyd Thacher Collection, which is the first Venetian report on the discoveries of Columbus and the Portuguese navigations to India. There is a 1547 Mexican treatise on the native languages, besides a Cortés letter of five years previous, written to Charles V, advising that the Indians of Mexico be put under the protection of the Crown.

In 1929 a valuable collection of Hispanic materials, comprising a group of early manuscripts relating to the first two centuries of Spanish American history, was presented to the Library by Mr. Edward S. Harkness, of New York. The distinguished historian J. Franklin Jameson, late chief of the Division of Manuscripts, described the collection in the following terms:

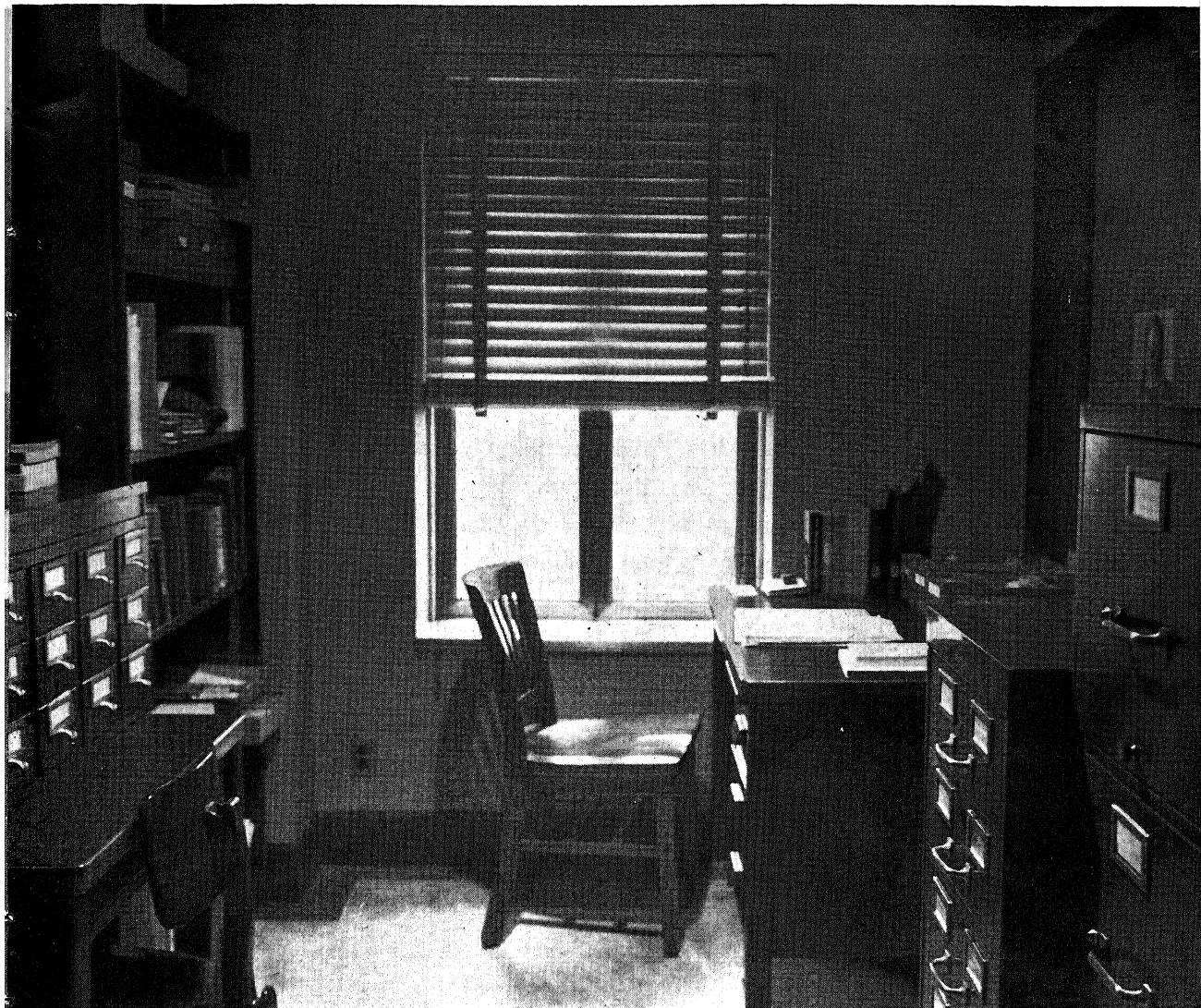
"The Mexican papers, the earliest of which is dated in 1525, only five years after Mexico was won for Spain on the plain of Otumba, have a degree of unity in that most of them are connected to some extent with the house of Cortés The Peruvian documents are more miscellaneous; in fact, extraordinarily varied in character. There are few aspects of the early history and life of Spanish Peru which are not illuminated in one or another of these thousand and odd documents, extending in date from 1531 to 1651 (with one additional document of 1740). Aside from a certain number of *cédulas* of Charles V and Philip II, they originated in Peru. Most of them are originals, preserved by notaries, while notarial copies were sent to Spain. They come from persons of all sorts, from the Pizarros and Almagros, the viceroys and bishops, down to secretaries and merchants, pilots and sailors, schoolmasters and widows. They include decrees and proclamations of viceroys, orders and instructions of officers

THE HISPANIC FOUNDATION
IN
THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

THIS CENTER
FOR THE PURSUIT OF STUDIES
IN SPANISH, PORTUGUESE AND LATIN-AMERICAN CULTURE
HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED
WITH THE GENEROUS COOPERATION OF
THE HISPANIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA
IN EXTENSION
OF ITS SERVICE TO LEARNING

MCMXXXVIII

Commemorative tablet.



One of the one hundred and seventy-two study rooms in the Annex of the Library of Congress.

to subordinates, contracts and agreements, commercial accounts and letters, minutes of municipalities, manumissions, and many other varieties of documents. . . .

"A few specific instances may illustrate the richness of this collection. For example, besides the long series of documents of the Pizarros and Almagros which show the processes of the conquest of Peru from 1531 on, there is the claim put forward by Diego Almagro the younger on account of the killing of his father. There is the imposing tailor's bill of Hernando de Soto. There is the long protest (1554) of some sixty of the chief notables among the conquerors against the new ordinance restricting personal services from the Indians which had been promulgated by Charles V, under the influence of Bishop Las Casas. There are the record books of two Andean frontier communities, begun in 1538 and 1539, respectively. There are provisions regarding protection against the 'Lutheran corsairs' of Francis Drake and the services of Indian runners to give warnings of his approach. There are announcements of royal endowment of the University of San Marcos at Lima and of provision for a chair of Indian languages, with the injunction that priests and missionaries must learn the language of their flocks. In short, all the round of human life in old Peru finds illustration in the collection."

As a part of the exchange relationship of the Library of Congress photostat reproductions of the Mexican and Peruvian manuscripts have been sent to the Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia y Etnología in Mexico City and to the Biblioteca Nacional in Lima.

In the field of Indian linguistics, the Manuscripts Division has the material collected by Rudolph Schuller during his many visits to Latin America.

In 1914, the Library of Congress began a program of copying manuscripts in Spanish archives and libraries relating to the history of the United States and, more particularly, to the former Spanish possessions within our borders. Five years later, similar work was undertaken in Mexico. Under a substantial Rockefeller grant the work still later was broadened considerably, and the practice of making transcripts was abandoned in favor of photostats or photo-film enlargements. As a result, the Division of Manuscripts now possesses a collection of hundreds of thousands of pages of material copied in the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, the Archivo General de Simancas, the Archivo Histórico Nacional and the Ministerio de Estado at Madrid. From the Archivo General y Público de la Nación and the Archivo General de la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores of Mexico City have come many thousands more. During

THE
HISTORY
OF
THE VALOROUS
AND WITTY
KNIGHT-ERRANTS,
DON QUIXOTE
Of the Mancha.

Translated out of the Spanish.



LONDON
Printed by William Stansby, for Ed. Blount and
W. Barret. 1612.

Title page of the first edition of the first English translation of "Don Quixote".



*Manuscript atlas of the world, completed by the royal Portuguese cartographer,
João Teixeira, in 1630.*

the past year, another collection of material containing the correspondence of the Argentine Foreign Office with that nation's diplomatic missions in this country, coming from the Archivo General de la Nación in Buenos Aires, has been added, as has also a gift from the Carnegie Institution of Washington of reproductions of manuscripts in Mexican and Spanish archives and libraries relating to the Yucatan region in the sixteenth century. Copies are now being made of a private collection of photographs of papers in the old Archivo General del Hospital de Jesús in Mexico City, dealing with Indian labor in Mexico in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and early eighteenth centuries. The total deposit constitutes an exceptionally rich field for research in various aspects of Hispanic culture.

Finally, there is a special collection of Portuguese manuscripts. It is notable for the richness of its material on the Military Orders and on Sebastianism, that mystic cult which obstinately denied the death of Dom Sebastião on the battlefield of Al Kaar al Kebir, maintaining that he still lived and would eventually return to restore the past greatness of his country.

Maps

In the Division of Maps is preserved one of the monuments of Hispanic cartography—the Manuscript Atlas of the world, completed by the royal Portuguese map-maker, João Teixeira, in 1630. It contains secret maps of the Americas and the Indies. There are also rare portolan charts of the coasts of Central and South America, cartographic manuscripts from the Royal School of Navigation at Cadiz (375 manuscript maps and charts, 1712–1824) depicting various portions of Hispanic American and the former Spanish possessions in this country. Other important items are Vopel's manuscript 4-inch globe, published in 1688, and one of the so-called buccaneer's atlases, made about 1690, showing the coast of western South America. Still another important nucleus for Hispanic studies is the Woodbury Lowery Collection of over 300 maps relating to the former Spanish possessions in this country.

Orientalia

The Division of Orientalia is rich in books printed in Chinese by Portuguese missionaries at Macao and other cities of the Orient. The Library consultants in Islamic and Indic studies stand ready to assist the researches of scholars in the Oriental aspects of Hispanic culture.

Among the more isolated and relatively unknown special collections of the Library of Congress are the Ladino books in the Hebraic Section. This material, written in the Judaeo-Spanish vernacular of the Sephardic Jews who were expelled from Spain in the fifteenth century and printed in the Rashi or Rabbinic Hebrew characters, is composed partly of Biblical translations and liturgical and rabbinical works, among which are some early editions. For the most part, however, the collection consists of modern belles-lettres. The Library is eager to add to its books in this field and is receiving the current weekly periodical, La Vara, published in New York City, printed in Ladino for Ladino-speaking people of the United States.

Official Publications

The Library of Congress maintains a system of exchange of government publications with all Hispanic nations. It is constantly attempting to obtain complete sets of all recent government gazettes, debates of parliamentary bodies, *memorias*, bulletins, special publications of government departments, and deliberations of provincial assemblies from the countries of Latin America. As a result of international agreements in force with various Latin American countries, the Library collection is probably the best in this country, as are also the files of early government gazettes from Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and elsewhere in Latin America.

A volume on the government documents of Mexico, compiled by Annita M. Ker, was published in 1940, and, by means of a special grant provided through the Interdepartmental Committee on Cultural and Scientific Cooperation, a series of guides to official publications of the other American Republics is being prepared under the direction of James B. Childs.

Legal Literature

The Law Library, another of the administrative divisions of the Library of Congress, has made a special effort to secure a complete collection of outstanding law books and legal journals pertaining to Hispanic culture. Inasmuch as Hispanic scholars have devoted themselves earnestly to the law since the time of Saint Isidore in the eighth century, this task is a considerable one. The late Law Librarian John T. Vance, however, was interested particularly in this field and, with the aid of a special fund available for the purchase of legal materials, was to make the Law Library one of the significant centers for the study of



Laderno de las leyes y nueuas decisiones
sobre las dubdas de derecho que continua-
mente solia y suelen ocurrir en estos reynos
en q' auia mucha diuersidad de opiniones en
tre los doctores y letrados destos reynos: las qua-
les se ymprimieron por mandado del Rey hecha en
la cibdad de Toro a catorze dias del mes de Março
de mil y quinientos y cinco años. Yo el Rey refren-
dada de Fernando de safra por mandado del rey ad-
ministrador y gouernador y señalada delos señores
del cōsejo presidete y oydores en las espaldas.

First edition of "Leyes de Toro," one of the ancient monuments of Spanish law.

Hispanic Law, a program which is continuing under his successor. Among the outstanding items in its collection is the first law book published in the Americas, compiled by a Spanish official engaged in administering Spain's vast empire, the famous *Cedulario* of Vasco de Puga, which appeared in Mexico in 1563 as one more of the notable products of the typographical skill of Pedro Ocharte. Many editions of the fundamental Spanish law code, the *Siete Partidas*, are also found in the gloss of Gregorio López.

A collection of notable materials usually leads to publication, and in the past the Law Library has issued guides to Spanish law as well as to the law of Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

Through the Interdepartmental operation, the Law Library has been Latin American law. As a part of *Latin American Republics*, in 1943 A and 1944 a *Guide to the Law and Legal Institutions of Argentina and Haiti*. Guides to the laws of other countries as well as supplements to earlier works in the field. The Law Library rapidly is becoming a leading center for information on Latin American law.

Fine Arts

The Archive of Hispanic Culture, organized by the Hispanic Foundation and at present operating on a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, has recently become an integral part of the Division of Prints and Photographs. This is a collection of some 15,000 photographs and slides of the fine and folk arts of Latin America, which includes the most complete selection of Kodachrome transparencies of the subject in existence. It is hoped that the photographic archive may be expanded to include all such aspects of Hispanic culture as folk art, furniture, costumes, religious customs and, in the case of Cuba and Brazil, the diversified crafts of the Negro. Principally, however, it will comprehend the fine arts in Spain, Portugal, and Latin America. Special emphasis has been placed on the gathering of photographs from the two latter regions, for the reason that little attention has yet been paid to them by art historians. The archive of Hispanic photographs will serve as a basic source of reference in a field in which at present such material is notably wanting, although it is among the richest of artistic provinces. Material of all periods will be included, from the earliest to the present day. In the case of Latin America, special attention will be paid to

the artistic connections with the mother countries, and an effort will be made to determine the indigenous elements in architecture, sculpture and painting. The first Curator of this archive visited Mexico and Central America, and his assistant visited the countries of South America, to gather information on art, museums, art instructions, research, private collections, and photographers. This information has been incorporated in a bibliographical guide to the materials of the fine arts of Latin America, now ready for publication.

Music

Finally, the Division of Music possesses a rich collection of Hispanic material. Outstanding are the rare *Graduale dominicale* printed by Pedro Ocharte at Mexico City in 1575 and the manuscript requiem mass of Francisco Guerrero, eminent sixteenth-century Spanish composer. It also has a rapidly growing collection of phonograph records of Latin American folk music. An agreement recently was arranged whereby the Library receives the folk music recorded at the Discoteca de São Paulo in Brazil in exchange for copies of discs of United States music produced at the Library's own Recording Laboratory. This service, splendidly equipped to make folk recordings in the field, has already conducted an expedition to Haiti and is looking forward to other expeditions in Latin America.

As its part in the Library's broad program of cooperation with the other American Republics, the Division of Music has been enabled through the Inter-departmental Committee to survey and build up its Latin American collections. Last year it published a comprehensive guide to Latin American music, which will be a basic tool for further research. The division has an auditorium in which, through the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge and Gertrude Clarke Whittall Foundations, concerts are held regularly. In certain of these concerts, the Library's Stradivarius instruments are used. Special attention is often paid in these concerts to the masterpieces of Hispanic music.

Handbook of Latin American Studies

The Handbook of Latin American Studies is an annual publication which lists, with critical and informative comments, the outstanding books and articles relating to Latin America which have appeared throughout the world in the course of each year. An integral part of the Hispanic Foundation, the *Handbook* is sponsored by the Library of Congress and the Joint Committee on Latin

American Studies of the National Research Council, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Social Science Research Council. It enjoys the active collaboration of outstanding specialists from the United States and other American Republics who prepare sections on various aspects of Latin American culture in both the humanities and the social sciences. The tenth yearly number of the *Handbook* was in preparation early in 1946.

The Aims of the Hispanic Foundation

Going back to the Hispanic Foundation, which was described before as a focus for the many Hispanic activities of the Library of Congress, it must be emphasized that its principal function is the creation of an unsurpassed collection of published material pertaining to Spain, Portugal and the countries of Latin America. In this task, the advice of specialists within the Library and in the learned societies, libraries and universities throughout this country and the Hispanic lands is sought.

Since the inauguration of the Hispanic Foundation in 1939, members of its staff have been able to visit almost all of the Hispanic countries and there establish contacts with a wide variety of intellectual organizations and individual writers. On their trips, they have acquired material for the Library of Congress by purchase, gift and exchange.

In spite of its constant purchases of books and periodicals from Latin America, Spain, and Portugal, the Library cannot hope to have a complete record of all contemporary publications without the active assistance of the authors themselves. Many important articles and monographs are submerged in magazines and newspapers, or are published in widely dispersed centers. The foundation, therefore, has adopted the policy of inviting living writers to send copies of their works to the Library of Congress, where they become integral parts of its collections. With the friendly aid of all authors who concern themselves with Hispanic studies, it is expected that this collection of contributions will provide a unique and increasingly valuable corpus of material. Already the response has been generous and the Foundation is receiving many important publications which otherwise might not have been available. Relations are also being established with societies and institutions of research in Latin America, Spain, and Portugal.

It must be emphasized also that "Hispanic" culture to the Hispanic Foundation means Portuguese as well as Spanish, Brazilian as well as Spanish American culture. The Foundation seeks to place equal emphasis on the Spanish-speaking

and the Portuguese-speaking worlds. The Portuguese collections of the Library are already well developed. Material, for instance, by and about Luiz de Camões, the great Portuguese poet, is noteworthy for its size and completeness. In 1927 a notable group of Portuguese books, numbering 1,500 volumes, was purchased from a private collector. The collection is particularly rich in the Portuguese chronicles of the Kings and the Religious Orders. There is a complete set of pamphlets relating to the expulsion of the Jesuits under the Marquês de Pombal. There is also important and rare material on Portuguese law, the administration of towns and provinces, the constitution, diplomatic relations, and art and archaeology.

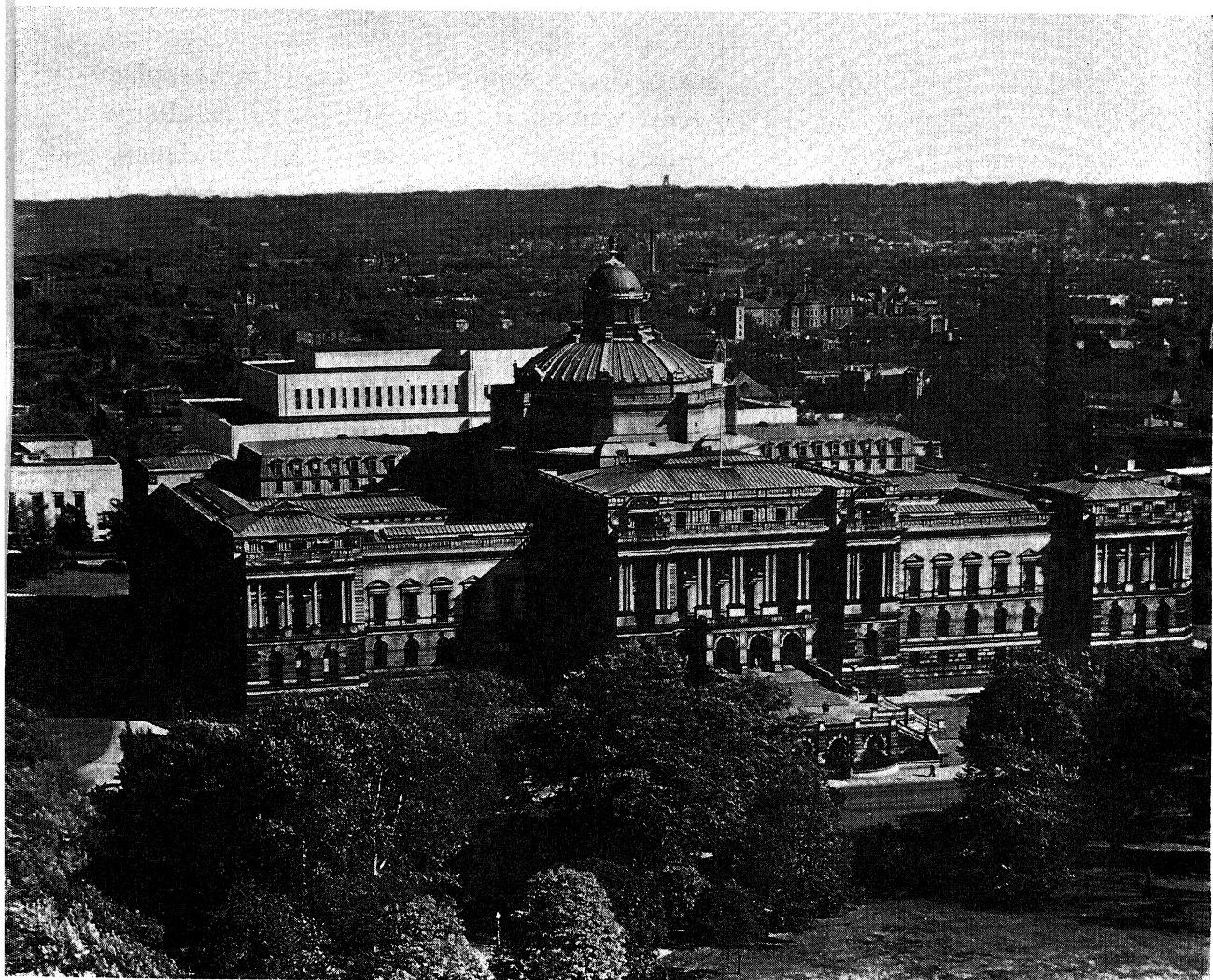
The culture of Haiti is also of profound interest to the Hispanic Foundation, by virtue of the many bonds which unite that nation to the Ibero-American countries and the United States.

Through special grants made to it, the Hispanic Foundation has been able to enlarge its activities and to make a start toward realizing its principal aims. The generous assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation has made it possible to have specialists survey the Library's holdings in certain Hispanic fields and to advise as to future purchase. Now nearing completion is an extensive Hispanic catalog which, it is hoped, eventually will analyze the whole Hispanic collection of the Library of Congress. The value of this Hispanic catalog to scholars who come to visit the Library can scarcely be overestimated. It will show at a glance what the Foundation itself possesses in relation to the rest of the Library of Congress. It will facilitate greatly the work of Hispanic scholars and should serve, together with the completeness of the collections, to attract them to the Foundation. Other projects made possible by the Rockefeller Foundation grant have been the publication of a preliminary edition of a survey of Latin American periodicals currently received in the Library of Congress, and an investigation of work in progress in the field of Latin American studies in this country. A revised edition of the guide to Latin American periodicals was published in 1944.

The establishment of a system of consultants from Hispanic countries for periods of two to twelve months has greatly assisted in improving the Hispanic services and collections. These specialists are brought to Washington from Latin America with the cooperation of the Department of State. It is planned to bring other consultants from Spain and Portugal with an endowment given to the Library by Mr. Archer M. Huntington. These consultants are distinguished scholars, writers, or librarians who advise the Library of Congress on its services and collections in their particular fields. During the fiscal year 1944 Dr. Fermín

Peraza, Director of the Municipal Library of Habana, Cuba, served as consultant in Cuban bibliography, and Dr. Christovam Leite de Castro of the National Council of Geography of Brazil served as consultant in Brazilian geography. During the fiscal year 1946 provisions were made to have Hispanic consultants in Bibliography, Law, Library Science, Literature, Music, and Social Legislation.

As its activities develop and its collections increase, the Foundation hopes to attract specialists in the many fields of Hispanic research and thereby gain in stature as an active center for the study of every branch of the culture of Spain, Portugal and Latin America. The Foundation welcomes the visits and queries of mature scholars bent on serious investigations, and its resources are always at their disposal. It will seek to put them in touch with other workers elsewhere in the same or related fields. If their stay at the Library is limited, special arrangements can be made in advance to have the books necessary for their research ready upon their arrival. It is hoped that visitors from Hispanic lands will come with increasing frequency, for only by such contacts can the Foundation adequately fulfill its mission.



Main building, occupied for use in 1897, and annex, completed in 1939.

The American Experience

Archibald MacLeish¹

This is an occasion without precedent in the history of the Library of Congress. But not perhaps for the reason of which you think. It is an occasion without precedent in the history of the Library of Congress because it is the first time in the Library's history when the Librarian has opened a new building or a new division with a speech.

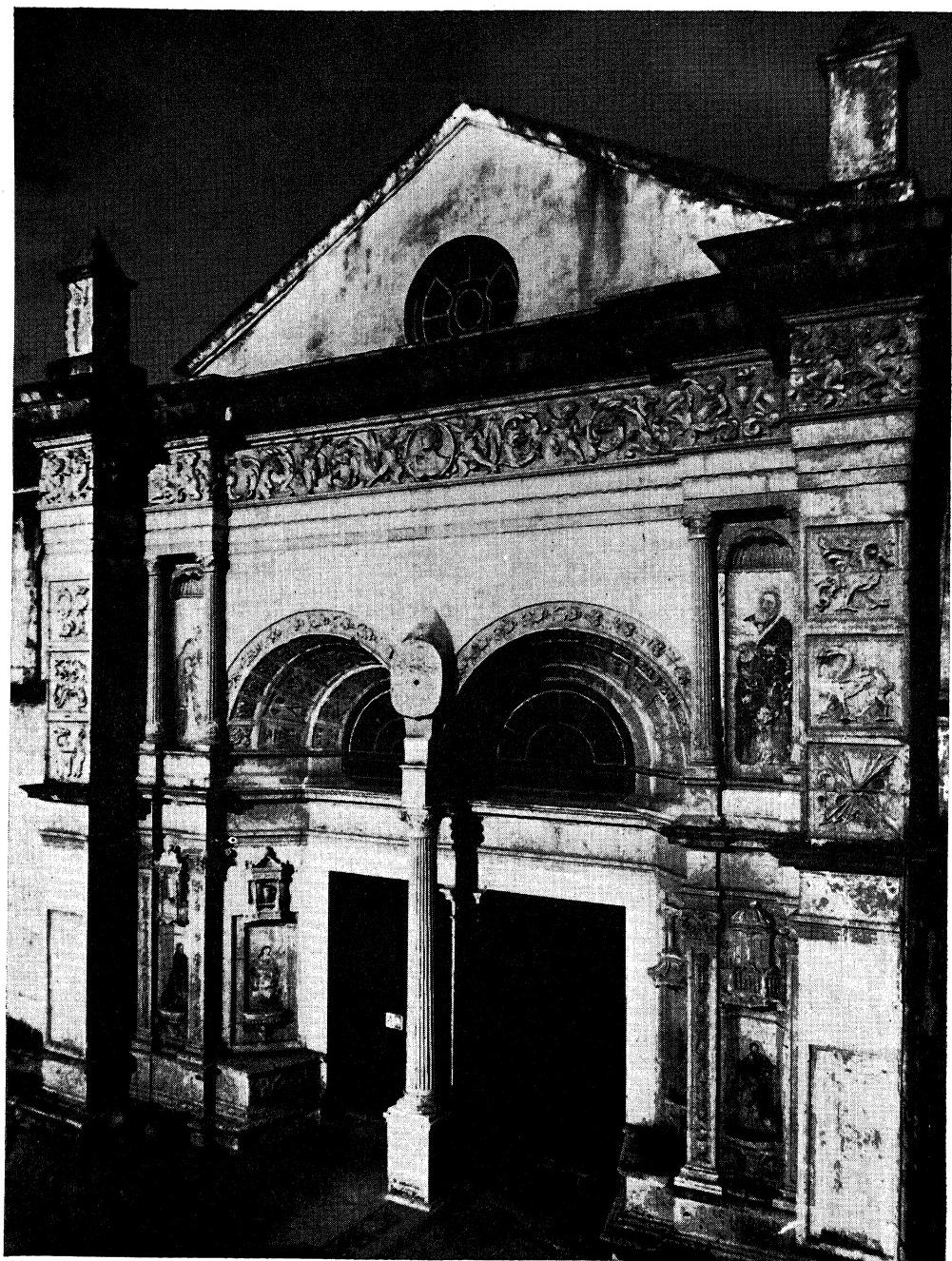
The Library moved across from the Capitol to the building in which we stand to the accompaniment of an eloquent and admired silence. Forty years later it pushed its frontiers across the street to the Annex which can be seen from these windows without a single word. Today it opens its Hispanic Room with a speech by the Librarian.

Unkind critics or unkinder friends will suggest that the difference is a difference in Librarians—that my predecessor being truly a librarian knew the golden value of that silence to which students in libraries are continually admonished whereas I, being a versifier, suffer from the itch for words which has always characterized my calling. It is a plausible explanation for it contains much truth. There is indeed a difference in Librarians and a difference, I fear, for the worse.

But the real explanation is not this. The real explanation is that the times change as well as the men. There are times when a great institution can let stone and mortar speak for it. And there are other times when it must attempt to speak, however haltingly, for itself.

This is such a time. Once the value of the things of the spirit could be taken for granted. Once it could be taken for granted anywhere in the civilized world that the free inquiry of the free spirit was essential to the dignified and noble life of man. Once it could be assumed as a matter of course that the work of artists, the work of poets, the work of scholars, was good and should be respected, and would be preserved. Now it is no longer possible to assume these things. Now—and it is still incredible to us that it should be true—now such an act of faith in the life of the human spirit as we perform here today, such an act of respect for the labor of poets and scholars and of love for that which they have made, cannot

¹An address by the former Librarian of Congress on the occasion of the dedication of the Hispanic Room in the Library of Congress, October 12, 1939.



Portal of the Cathedral, Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic. 1541. Photograph by Barón Castillo, in the collection of the Archive of Hispanic Culture.

be taken for granted: cannot be left to speak for itself even in a room as beautiful, as eloquent as this. It is necessary for us to say what it is that we are doing and why it is that we are doing it.

I for one am not proud of this necessity. I am not glad that it is necessary to speak.

What we do is this: we dedicate here a room and a division of the Library of Congress which has been set apart for the preservation and the study and the honor of the literature and scholarship of those other republics which share with ours the word American; and which share with ours also the memories of human hope and human courage which that word evokes—evokes now as never before in the history of our hemisphere.

Why we do it is also obvious. We do it because this literature and this scholarship are worthy in themselves of the closest study and the most meticulous care and the greatest veneration; and because they, more than any other literature and more than any other scholarship, help us in this republic to understand the American past which is common to us all.

We are beginning to perceive, as the peaceful dream of the century fades away and the economic theories and scientific theories, explain everything, fade away with it—we are beginning to perceive never was, and never can be, such a philosophic abstraction as the thinkers of that century supposed—that man is a creature living on this earth and that the earth he lives on qualifies his life. America has shaped and qualified and redirected the lives of men living on her continents for four hundred years. But we who are born in America and live our lives here, have not very well understood our relations to these continents, nor our debt to them, nor in what way they have altered us and changed our bodies and our minds.

We have not understood this because we have turned, for the most part, to the literature and the scholarship of Europe for instruction, and for the interpretation of our world. Those of us who were of Latin origin have turned to the literatures of latinized Europe, and those of us who were of English and Celtic and Scandinavian and Teutonic origin to the literatures of northern Europe. We have found there great treasures, great wisdom, high instruction—but only rarely an interpretation of our own lives in terms of the earth we know. Even the American child reading his European poems feels the strangeness; the seasons are wrong, the springs too early or too slow, the birds and animals different.

It is a curious condition but one which, by long habit, we have come to take as natural. We have looked at America with borrowed European eyes so long

that we should hardly recognize the country if we saw it with our own. Doubtless we shall continue for many generations to look at America with these eyes. Our cultural inheritance is European by origin, and like other European legatees of other legacies we can enjoy it only in the original currency. Which means inevitably that we employ that original currency to value our American lives. But though it is inevitable that the great richness of our European past should impose its values upon our American present, it is not inevitable, and it is surely not desirable, that the great richness of our European past should exclude us from the richness of our own.

From the beginning of the sixteenth century there has been accumulating on these continents a body of recorded American experience of the very greatest importance to anyone concerned to understand the American earth and the relation of that earth to the men who live upon it. Because this experience has been recorded in several languages and because it has been deposited in scattered places—places as far apart as Santiago de Chile and Bogota and Buenos Aires and Mexico City and New Orleans and St. Louis and Quebec—because, furthermore, it has been overlaid with the continuing importation of European literature and European thought—for all these reasons the recorded American experience has not influenced the common life of the Americas as it should have influenced it. It has not been useful to an understanding of the Americas as it should have been useful.

Other men who know these continents better than I know them—other men who know these records of the American experience better than I shall ever know them—will think of many instances in their own lives when the words of men who lived in the Americas before them have made suddenly clear, and suddenly explicable, matters they had long wished to understand. But even in my shallow knowledge of these things there is one such indebtedness. Some twelve years ago in a Paris library I came upon a copy of Bernal Diaz' *True History of the Conquest of New Spain*. There in that still living, still human, still sharply breathing and believable story of Mexico it seemed to me that I understood for the first time the central American experience—the experience which is American because it can be nothing else—the experience of all those who, of whatever tongue, are truly American—the experience of the journey westward from the sea into the unknown and dangerous country beyond which lies the rich and lovely city for which men hope.

I tried at that time to make a poem of this understanding. The argument of my poem began—

Of that world's conquest and the fortunate wars:
Of the great report and expectation of honor:
How in their youth they stretched sail: how fared they
Westward under the wind: by wave wandered:
Shoaled ship at the last at the ends of ocean:
How they were marching in the lands beyond:
Of the difficult ways there were and the winter's snow;
Of the city they found in the good lands: how they lay in it:
How there was always the leaves and the days going . . .

Other men will say the same thing in other words and many of them better. Historians will tell us how their study of the documents and monuments of Mexico and Peru opened to their minds the true perspective of American civilization—a civilization of which the first European date is the year 1523 when a school for Indian boys was opened in Mexico City—of which the first American date lies deep under the limestone waters of Yucatan and the iron earth of Guatemala. Scholars will speak of the year 1539 when the first book to be printed in the Americas was printed in the city of Mexico. Lovers of human liberty will remember the name of Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora who, in the year 1691, at a time when witches were being hung in Salem, successfully defended against the ecclesiastics of Mexico his opinion that the great eclipse of that year was a natural event. They will quote against all witch-burners in all centuries and countries his noble words: “I stood with my quadrant and telescope viewing the [blackened] sun, extremely happy and repeatedly thanking God for having granted that I might behold what so rarely happens in a given place and about which there are so few observations in the books.”

No man living in the United States can truly say he knows the Americas unless he has a knowledge of these things—a knowledge of this other American past, this older American past which shares with ours the unforgettable experience of the journey toward the West and the westward hope.

What we are doing in this room, then, is to dedicate to the uses of the citizens of the United States, and to the uses of learners and readers everywhere, these records of the American experience. In this Hispanic Room of the Library, students of the Americas may follow the great Iberian tradition which has populated with its ideas and its poetry by far the greater part of these two continents. Here they may read the rich and various works written in these continents in the Iberian tongues—the two great tongues which, with our own, have become the American language. Here, if our hopes are realized, Americans may some day find the greatest collection of Hispanic literature and scholarship ever gathered in one place.

There are men in the world today—and many rather than few—who say that the proper study of mankind is not man but a particular kind of man. There are those who teach that the only cultural study proper to a great people is its own culture. There are those also who say that the only real brotherhood is that blood brotherhood for which so many wars have been fought and by which so many deaths are still justified. The dedication of this room and of this collection of books is a demonstration of the fact that these opinions are not valid in the Americas: that in the Americas, peopled by so many hopes, so many sufferings, so many races, the highest brotherhood is still the brotherhood of the human spirit and the true study is the study of the best.

This is the belief of the people of this Republic expressed by the action of their national Library in the dedication of this room.

Publications in the Hispanic Field Issued by the Library of Congress

Priced publications are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. All orders for such publications should be addressed to him. Unpriced publications are issued ordinarily in small editions for distribution to libraries and to government agencies. A limited number of all publications is available for exchange with institutions and official agencies of the United States and Latin America. Correspondence regarding exchange should be addressed to the Exchange Section of the Acquisitions Department, The Library of Congress, Washington 25, D. C.

Items preceded by an asterisk are out of print. They are included, however, in order to give a complete picture of the Library's publishing activities in the Hispanic field for nearly half a century.

1898—1943

**List of Books Relating to Cuba*. By A. P. C. Griffin. With a bibliography of maps by P. L. Phillips. 1898. 61 p. 5 cents.

**List of Books and of Articles in Periodicals Relating to Interoceanic Canal and Railway Routes (Nicaragua; Panama, Darien and the valley of the Atrato; Tehuantepec and Honduras; Suez Canal)*. By H. A. Morrison, Jr. 1900. 174 p. 10 cents.

**A List of Books (With References to Periodicals) on Porto Rico*. By A. P. C. Griffin. 1901. 55 p. 5 cents.

**Biblioteca Filipina, ó sea catálogo razonado de todos los impresos, tanto insulares como extranjeros, relativos á la historia . . . de las Islas Filipinas, de Joló y Marianas*. By T. H. Pardo de Tavera. 1903. 439 p. Cloth, 60 cents.

**A List of Books (With References to Periodicals) on the Philippine Islands in the Library of Congress*. By A. P. C. Griffin. With chronological list of maps in the Library of Congress, by P. L. Phillips. 1903. 397 p. Cloth, 60 cents.

**A List of Works Relating to the American Occupation of the Philippine Islands, 1898-1903*. By A. P. C. Griffin. 1905. 100 p. 25 cents.

**The Lowery Collection: A Descriptive List of Maps of the Spanish Possessions within the Present Limits of the United States, 1502-1820*. By Woodbury Lowery. Edited, with notes, by P. L. Phillips. 1912. 567 p. Cloth, \$1.00.

Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Spain. Prepared under the direction of Edwin M. Borchard by Thomas W. Palmer, Jr. 1915. 174 p. Cloth, 50 cents.

Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Argentina, Brazil and Chile. By Edwin M. Borchard. 1917. 523 p. Cloth, \$1.00.

**List of References on the Panama Canal and the Panama Canal Zone*. 1919. 21 p. 5 cents.

The Memorias of the Republics of Central America and of the Antilles. By James B. Childs. 1932. 170 p. 20 cents.

The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress. Volume I: *Calendar of Spanish Manuscripts*

Concerning Peru, 1531-1651. Prepared by Stella R. Clemence. 1932. 336 p. Cloth, \$3.25.

The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress. Volume II: Documents from Early Peru: The Pizarros and the Almagros, 1531-1578. Transcribed, translated and annotated by Stella R. Clemence. 1936. 253 p. Cloth, \$3.25.

**Bibliography of Official Publications and the Administrative Systems in Latin American Countries.* By James B. Childs. 1938. 44 p.

**Notas Salientes de la Biblioteca del Congreso.* 1938. 6 p.

**The Hispanic Foundation in the Library of Congress.* By Robert C. Smith. With *The American Experience*, by Archibald MacLeish. 1939. 16 p.

A Fundação Hispânica na Biblioteca do Congresso. By Robert C. Smith. With *A Experiência Americana*, by Archibald MacLeish. 1940. 17 p.

**La Fundación Hispánica en la Biblioteca del Congreso.* By Robert C. Smith. With *La Experiencia Americana*, by Archibald MacLeish. 1940. 18 p.

Colonial Printing in Mexico: Catalog of an Exhibition Held at the Library of Congress in 1939 . . . 1939, Second printing, 1940. 60 p.

Mexican Government Publications: A Guide to the More Important Publications of the National Government of Mexico, 1821-1936. By Annita Melville Ker. 1940. 333 p. Cloth, \$1.25.

Colombian Government Publications. By James B. Childs. Second edition. 1941. 41 p. 10 cents.

**Latin American Periodicals Currently Received in the Library of Congress.* Preliminary edition. Prepared by Murray M. Wise, with the aid of Virginia Brewer, Joseph V. Butt and Anyda Marchant. 1941. 137 p. Mimeographed.

**The Spanish Discovery of the South American Mainland.* By William Jerome Wilson. 1941. 17 p.

Bibliography of Latin American Folk Music. Compiled by Gilbert Chase. 1942. 141 p. Mimeographed.

Copyright Convention Between the United States and Other American Republics, Signed at Buenos Aires, August 11, 1910. 1942. 7 p.

The Fine and Folk Arts of the Other American Republics; A Bibliography of Publications in English. Prepared by the Archive of Hispanic Culture, Hispanic Foundation. 1942. 18 p. Multilithed. Furnished only to libraries on request.

**The Historicity of the 1494 Discovery of South America.* By William Jerome Wilson. 1942. 15 p.

Investigations in Progress in the United States in the Field of Latin American Humanistic and Social Science Studies. Preliminary edition. Edited by Alexander Marchant and Charmion Shelby. 1942. 236 p. Mimeographed. Furnished only to libraries on request.

**Publications Relating to Latin America Issued by the Library of Congress.* 1942. 6 p.

Some Aeronautical Books in Spanish. 1942. 4 p. Mimeographed. Furnished only to libraries on request.

**Vida del pueblo norteamericano.* By Harold U. Faulkner, Tyler Kepner and Hall Bartlett. Translated into Spanish by E. de Champourcin. Mexico. Fondo de Cultura Económica. 1942. 405 p. Published and distributed free to libraries in Spanish America by the Hispanic Foundation in cooperation with the United States Department of State.

Latin American Belles-Lettres in English Translation: A Selective and Annotated Guide. By James A. Granier. 1943. 33 p. Mimeographed. Furnished only to libraries on request.

General Censuses and Vital Statistics in the Americas . . . Prepared under the supervision of Irene B. Taeuber. 1943. 151 p. Paper, 20 cents. Cloth, 65 cents.

Murals by Cândido Portinari in the Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress. By Robert C. Smith. 1943. 32 p.

**The Portinari Murals in the Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress.* Notes by Robert C. Smith on the occasion of the inauguration of the murals, January 12, 1942. 1943. 4 p.

"Latin American Series"

1. *Legal Codes of the Latin American Republics.* 1942. 95 p. Cloth, 75 cents.
2. *A Bibliography of Latin American Bibliographies.* By G. K. Jones. 2d ed. 1942. 311 p. 40 cents.
3. *A Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.* By Crawford M. Bishop and Anyda Marchant. 1944. 276 p. Cloth, \$1.75.
4. *A Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Colombia.* By Richard C. Backus and Phanor J. Eder. 1943. (i. e. 1944) 222 p. Cloth, \$1.50.
5. *A Guide to Latin American Music.* By Gilbert Chase. 1945. 274 p. 45 cents.
6. *A Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Mexico.* By John T. Vance and Helen L. Clagett. 1945. 269 p. Cloth, \$2.00.
7. *Bibliografías Cubanas.* By Fermín Peraza y Sarausa. 1945. 58 p. 20 cents.
8. *Latin American Periodicals Currently Received in the Library of Congress and in the Library of the Department of Agriculture.* 1944. (i. e. 1945) 249 p. 45 cents.
9. *A Guide to the Official Publications of the Other American Republics.* I. Argentina. 1945. 124 p. 25 cents.

10. *A Guide to the Official Publications of the Other American Republics.* II. Bolivia. 1945. 66 p. 15 cents.
11. *A Guide to the Official Publications of the Other American Republics.* VII. Cuba. 1945. 40 p. 10 cents.

In Preparation

Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. Supplement, 1917 to date. (Law Library.)

Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Bolivia, Ecuador, and Paraguay. By Crawford M. Bishop. (Law Library.)

Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. (Law Library.)

Guide to the Materials of the Fine Arts of Latin America. By Robert C. Smith and Elizabeth Wilder. (Prints and Photographs Division.)

Guide to the Official Publications of the Other American Republics. James B. Childs, general editor. (Acquisitions Department.) IV: Chile. V: Colombia. XI: Guatemala. XVII: Paraguay.

The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress. Volume III: *Calendar of Spanish Manuscripts Concerning Mexico, 1531-1612.* Compiled by Stella R. Clemence. (Manuscripts Division.)